

CM What is claimed is:

- a first magnetic layer, which has an in-plane magnetization at the room temperature range, and which changes to a perpendicular magnetization at the medium temperature range;

- a second magnetic layer having a perpendicular magnetization; and

- a third magnetic layer, wherein the third magnetic layer is interposed between said first and second magnetic layers, and has a Curie temperature lower than those of said first and second magnetic layers, and has an in-plane magnetization at the room temperature range and changes to a perpendicular magnetization at the medium temperature range.

2. A method of reproducing, with a laser beam, information recorded on a magneto-optical recording medium comprising a first magnetic layer, a second magnetic layer having a perpendicular magnetization, and an intermediate layer therebetween having a Curie temperature higher than

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heating the first magnetic layer with the laser beam so that the first magnetic layer has a portion in the room temperature range having in-plane magnetization and a portion in the medium temperature range having a perpendicular magnetization;

transferring information recorded in the second magnetic layer to the first magnetic layer by exchange coupling through the intermediate layer perpendicular magnetization of the first magnetic layer and magnetization of the second magnetic layer; and

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